

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09673 181035Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/058 W

----- 036087

R 180708Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2501

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PFOR

SUBJECT: GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR AND LAHORE BY-ELECTION

REF: ISLAMABAD 9672

1. A CABINET MINISTER, WHO IS A PPP MEMBER, HAS INFORMED DCM THAT AT YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING, CHAIRED BY PRIME MINISTER, THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT KHAR IS NOW A MAJOR THREAT TO PPP/GOP HOLD ON THE PUNJAB. MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT GOP'S OVERKILL ACTIONS IN RECENT WEEKS AIMED AT ISOLATING KHAR, WHOIS CONTESTING A LAHORE BY-ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE OCTOBER 19, HAVE ONLY SERVED TO BOOST KHAR'S IMAGE AND STRENGTH IN THE PUNJAB AND SAID THIS RECOGNIZED DURING CABINET MEETING DISCUSSION. KHAR'S POPULARITY IS NOW SUCH THAT CENTRAL MINISTERS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE PPP CANDIDATE AND AGAINST KHAR "CANNOT FIND TEN PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO THEM."

2. WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN AND WHATEVER IS THE RISK, GOVERNMENT NOW OF VIEW IT HAS NO OPTION BUT TO TOUGHT IT OUT WITH KHAR. MINISTER BELIEVES GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT NECESSARY TO ARREST KHAR "IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEXT SEVERAL DAYS."

BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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